

Num 1-1 to 4-20 Torah Reading - Parshat BaMidbar
English version by Len Fellman May 17, 2020

1:1 Then spoke YHWH [these words to Moses] in the wilderness of Sinai, in the Tent of Meeting
[on the first day] of the second month of the year—[this being the second year] [after their going out] from the land of Egypt, saying this:
2[You must take up] [a head-count] [of the whole community] [*B'nei Yisrael*] [by their families], by the houses of their fathers,
by the number of names—[every male], by their heads.
3 From age twenty years and upwards, all who go out in the army, in Israel: You [shall reckon them] [by their battalions]—you and Aaron.
4 [And with you] [there shall be] a man—one man from each tribe: [the man who is] the head of his father's house, he shall be.
5 Now these are the names of the men who are to stand [with you]: [for Reuben], Elitzur son of Shedey-ur.
6 [For Simeon], Shelumiel [son of Tzuri-shaddai]. 7[For Judah], Nachson son of Aminadav.
8[And for Issachar], Nethanel son of Tzuar. 9[For Zebulun], Eliav son of Chelon.
10 For the sons of Joseph: [for Ephraim], Elishama son of Amihud. [For Manasseh], Gamliel [son of Padah-tzur].
11[And for Benjamin], Ayidan [son of Gid'oni]. 12[And for Dan], Achiezer [son of Ami-shaddai].
13[And for Asher], Pag'iel son of Akhran. 14[And for Gad], Elyassaf son of D'euel.
15[And for Naftali], Achira son of Eynan.
16 These [are the ones called] [from the community], chieftains of the tribes of their fathers,
[because the heads] of the divisions of Israel, they are.
17 Thus took Moses and Aaron these men [that we mentioned]—the ones marked out by name.
18 The entire community [they brought together] [for the first day] of month the second. They were recorded by their families,
by the house of their fathers, with [the number of names], those [whose age] [was twenty years] and upwards, by their heads.
19 [Just as it was] commanded by YHWH to Moses, [end aliyah] [thus did he count them] in the desert of Sinai.
20 [Here is the result]: [the sons of Reuben], first-born of Israel, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers,
[by the number] of their names, [by their head-count], [every male] from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.

1:21 Their tally for the tribe of Reuben: [a total of six] [and forty] thousand and five hundred. (46,500)

22 For the sons of Simeon, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers, [reckoned they were] [by the number] of their names, [by their head-count], [every male] from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.

23 Their tally for the tribe of Simeon: [a total of nine] [and fifty] thousand and three hundred. (59,300).

24 For the sons of Gad, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers, by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.

25 Their tally for the tribe of Gad was five and forty thousand, six hundred and fifty (45,650).

26 For the sons of Judah, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers, by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.

27 Their tally for the tribe of Judah: [a total of four] [and seventy] thousand and six hundred. (74,600).

28 For the sons of Issachar, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers, by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.

29 Their tally for the tribe of Issachar: [a total of four] [and fifty] thousand and four hundred. (54,400).

30 For the sons of Zebulun, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers, by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.

31 Their tally for the tribe of Zebulun: [a total of seven] [and fifty] thousand and four hundred. (57,400).

32 For the sons of Joseph: for the sons of Ephraim, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers, by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.

33 Their tally for the tribe of Ephraim was forty thousand and five hundred (40,500).

34 For the sons of Manasseh, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers, by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.

35 Their tally for the tribe of Manasseh [was a total of two] [and thirty] thousand [and two hundred]. (32,200).

36 For the sons of Benjamin, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers, by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.

1:37 Their tally for the tribe of Benjamin [a total of five] [and thirty] thousand and four hundred. (35,400).
 38 For the sons of Dān, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers,
 by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.
 39 Their tally for the tribe of Dan [a total of two] [and sixty] thousand seven hundred. (62,700).
 40 For the sons of Āsher, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers,
 by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.
 41 Their tally for the tribe of Asher [a total of one] [and forty] thousand and five hundred. (41,500).
 42 For the sons of Naphtali, their offspring according to their families, by the house of their fathers,
 by the number [of their names], from age twenty years and upwards, all going out to the army.
 43 Their tally for the tribe of Naphtali [a total of three] [and fifty] thousand and four hundred. (53,400).
 44 These [are the reckonings]—[those men that were] counted by Moses and by Aaron and the leaders of Israel: they being [twelve men],
 one man for each father's house, they were.
 45 [And they were]—all those counted of the children of Israel, by the house of their fathers—
 from age twenty years and over, all who were fit to go out in battle, in Israel.
 46 [Thus they were]—[all that were counted]—six hundred thousand and another three thousand, plus five hundred and fifty (603,550).
 47 But the Levites, by the house of their fathers, were not counted among them.
 48 Thus spoke YHWH, to Moses, saying:
 49 Take heed: the tribe of the Levites [you will not] tally, their head-count [you will not] take up in the midst of the children of Israel.
 50 [And this is what you must do], [place in charge] [these people, the Levites], of the Ark of the Testimony,
 and [of all of its furnishings], [and of all] [pertaining to it]. [They are the ones] [who shall carry] the *mishkan* (the tabernacle)
 [and all of its furnishings]. [It is they] [who will serve there]. Around the tabernacle, they will camp.
 51 [When it is time] [to move the *mishkan*], [it will be] [taken down] by the Levites,
 [and at the encampment] of the *mishkan*, it will be set up by the Levites. The outsider who comes near it, will die.
 52 [They will put up camp]—the children of Israel—[each individual] [in his own camp], each under his banner, by their divisions.

1:53 [But as for the Levites]—[they will camp] around the Ark of Testimony, [so there be no] [divine anger] [over the community], *B'nei Yisrael*. [Thus will safeguard]—the Levites—[and keep watch] over the Ark of the Testimony.

54 [And so did] *B'nei Yisrael* [according to everything]—[all that] [had been commanded] [by YHWH] [end aliyah] to Moses—thus did they do.

2:1 Then spoke YHWH to Moses and to Aaron, as follows.

2 [Each man will camp] [by his banner], with the insignia of the house of his fathers: [thus they will camp]—*B'nei Yisrael*—[at a distance], around the Tent of Meeting they will camp.

3 Those that camp] to the east—[toward the sunrise]—[are those under the flag] of the camp of Judah, by their divisions. The chieftain of the sons of Judah was Nachshon son of Aminadav.

4 His division [and those reckoned with him] [was a total of four] [and seventy] thousand and six hundred. (74,600).

5 Those camped by him: the tribe of Issachar. The chieftain of the sons of Issachar was Nethanel son of Tzuar.

6 His division and their count [was a total of four] [and fifty] thousand and four hundred. (54,400).

7 [Thirdly the tribe] of Zebulun: The chieftain of the sons of Zebulun was Eliav son of Chelon.

8 His division [and their count] [was a total of seven] [and fifty] thousand and four hundred (57,400).

9 [The entire count] [for the camp] [of Judah] was one hundred thousand [plus another] [eighty thousand], and six thousand four hundred (186,400) by their divisions. [They shall go first] on the march.

10 The banner [of the camp of] [the tribe of Reuben] [shall be to the south], by their divisions. The chieftain of the sons of Reuben was Elitzar [son of Shedey-ur].

11 His division [and their count] [was a total of six] [and forty] thousand and five hundred (46,500).

12 Those camped by him: the tribe of Simeon. The chieftain of the sons of Simeon was Shelumiel [son of Tzuri-shaddai].

13 His division [and their count] [was a total of nine] [and fifty] thousand and three hundred (59,300).

14 [Thirdly the tribe] of Gad. The chieftain of the sons of Gad was Elyassaf son of Reuel.

15 His division [and their count] was five and forty thousand six hundred and fifty (45,650).

16 [The entire count] for [the camp of Reuben] was one hundred thousand plus one [and fifty thousand], four hundred fifty, (151,450) by their divisions. [They shall go second] on the march.

2:17 [And there shall travel] [the Tent of Meeting] and the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camps.
 As [they do camp] so shall they travel: each one in his position, by their banners.

18 The banner of [the camp of Ephraim] by their divisions, to the west. The chieftain of the sons of Ephraim was Elishama son of Amihud.

19 His division [and their count] was forty thousand and five hundred (40,500).

20 [And by him], the tribe of Manasseh. The chieftain of the sons of Manasseh was Gamliel [son of Padah-tzur].

21 His division [and their count] [was a total of two] [and thirty] thousand and two hundred. (30,200).

22 [Thirdly the tribe] of Benjamin. The chieftain of the sons of Benjamin was Avidan son of Gid'oni.

23 His division [and their count] [was a total of five] [and thirty] thousand and four hundred. (35,400).

24 [The entire count] [for the camp] [of Ephraim] [was thus] [one hundred thousand], plus eight thousand one hundred (108,100),
 by their divisions. [They shall go third] on the march.

25 The flag [of the camp of] [the tribe of Dan], [shall be on the north side], by their divisions.
 The chieftain of the sons of Dan was Achiezer, son of Ami-Shaddai.

26 His division [and their count] [was a total of two] [and sixty] thousand and seven hundred. (62,700)

27 Those camping beside them: the tribe of Asher. The chieftain of the sons of Asher was Pag'iel, [son of Akhron].

28 His division and their count [was a total of one] [and forty] thousand and five hundred. (41,500)

29 [Thirdly the tribe] of Naphtali. the chieftain of the sons of Naphtali was Achira, [son of Eynan].

30 His division [and their count] [was a total of three] [and fifty] thousand and four hundred. (53,400)

31 [Thus the entire count] of the camp of Dan was [a hundred thousand], [plus seven] [and fifty] thousand, and six hundred. (157,600)
 They were the last to march, by their flags.

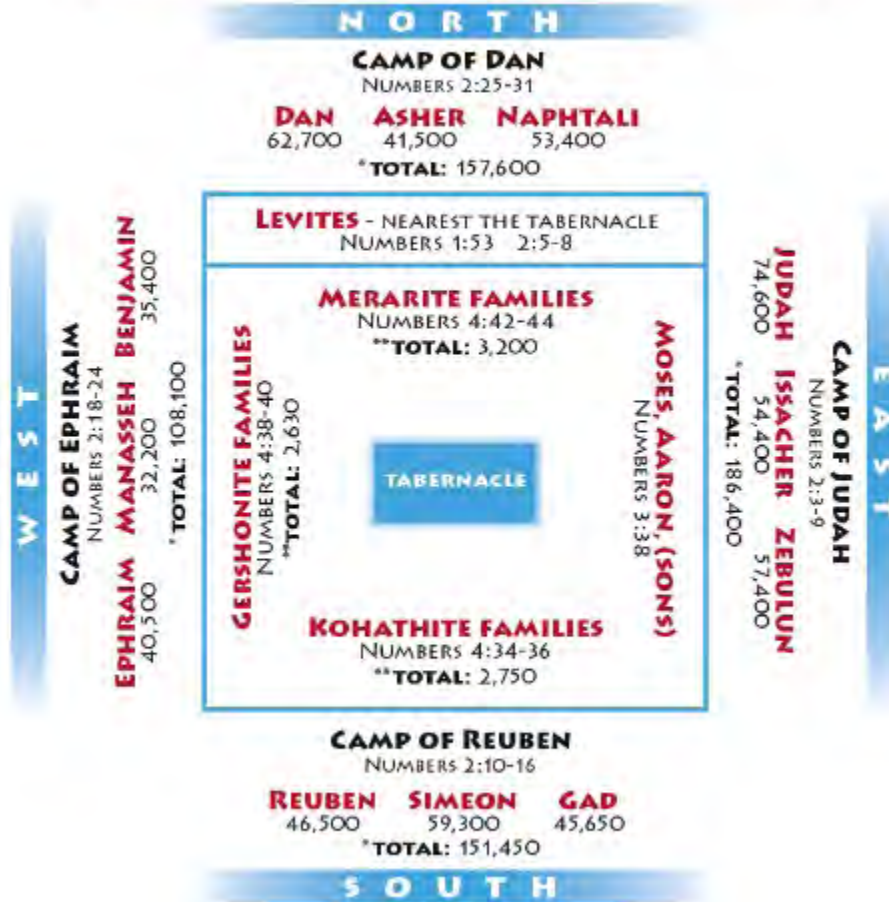
32 [These then are] the counts of the sons of Israel, by the houses of their fathers: all the counts of the camps by their armies,
 [six hundred] thousand [and three] thousand, five hundred and fifty. (603,550, wrong in Kaplan)

33 [And as for the Levites]: they were not counted among the sons of Israel, [just as it was] commanded by God to Moses.

34 Thus did the sons of Israel, [according to all that was] commanded by YHWH to Moses.

They camped by their flags, and so [did they travel], [end aliyah] each with his family, by the house of his father.

THE WILDERNESS ENCAMPMENT OF ISRAEL AND THE FIRST CENSUS



AGE 20 AND UP** : ABLE TO GO TO WAR; *AGES 30-50** : ABLE FOR TABERNACLE WORK.

<http://www.thelordsway.com/site19/custompage.asp?CongregationID=1202&CustomPageID=1426#.XN-aE6R7kdU>

3:1 [Now we will set out] the generations of Aaron and Moses, [for the day]—[the time at which spoke] YHWH to Moses on Mount Sinai.
 2 [First of all, these] are the names of the sons of Aaron: the first-born | Nadav, [and Avihu], Eleazar, and Ithamar.
 3 [These were indeed] the names of the sons of Aaron: the priests [who were anointed],
 who filled their hand (*i.e.* who were installed) [to serve as priests].
 4 And died Nadav and Avihu before the presence of YHWH [when they brought forward] ‘unfit fire’ before YHWH in the Desert of Sinai;
 [as for sons] [there were none] for them. [Serving as priests] were Eleazar and Ithamar, [in the living presence] of Aaron their father.
 5 Then spoke YHWH to Moses, saying,
 6 [Bring forward] the tribe of Levi, and [station them] in the presence of Aaron the priest, [that they may serve] him.
 7 And they [shall keep his charge], and the charge [of the whole] assembly, [in front of] the Tent of Meeting,
 to work in the service of the Tabernacle.
 8 They shall keep watch [over all the furnishings] of the Tent of Meeting, [and keep the charge] of *B’nei Yisrael*
 to work in the service of the Tabernacle.
 9 [You shall give over] the Levites to Aaron [and to his sons]. [They are given]—appointed they are [to him], from the children of Israel.
 10 Aaron and his sons [you shall appoint] [that they safeguard] their priesthood. The stranger who draws near [shall be put to death].
 11 Then spoke YHWH to Moses, saying,
 12 [Now I am doing this]: [know that I hereby] am taking [the Levites] from among the children of Israel.
 [They will take the place] [of all the first-born]—ones who open the wombs, of *B’nei Yisrael*. They shall be Mine—the Levites.
 13 Because [they are Mine]—[every first-born]. [On the day that] I slew all the first-born in the land of Egypt,
 I consecrated [to Myself] [every first-born] in Israel from man to beast. [end aliyah] Mine they shall be, I am YHWH.
 14 Then spoke YHWH to Moses in the desert of Sinai, as follows:
 15 [Take a tally] of the sons of Levi, by the house of their fathers, by their families.
 [Every male] from age one month and upwards, [you shall count].
 16 [So he] [recorded them]—Moses followed the word of YHWH, just as he was commanded.

3:17 Now these were the sons of Levi, by name: [Gershon], Kehoth, and Merari.

18 [And now these] are the names of the sons of Gershon by their families: Liyni and Shimi.

19 The sons of Kehoth by their families: Amram and Yitzhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

20 [And the sons] [of Merari] [by their families]: Machli and Mushi.

[These they were]: the families of the Levites by the house of their fathers.

21 Belonging to Gershon were the family of the Livnites and the families of the Shimites.

[And so] these were the families of the Gershonites.

22 Their tallies by numbering all males [from age one month] and over—here is their number: seven thousand five hundred (7,500).

23 The family of the Gershonites [will toward the back] [of the *Mishkan*] [set up camp]—[on the west side].

24 Chieftain of the father's house for the Gershonites was Elyassaf son of La-el.

25 The task [of the sons of Gershon] in the Tent of Meeting:
the Tabernacle and the Tent: [its covering] [and the screen] of the entrance of the Tent of Meeting,

26 and the hangings [of the enclosure] and the screen at the entrance of the courtyard,
[which is set up] [around the *Mishkan*] [and at the altar] all around, as well as its cords, for all [of its service].

27 [And as for Kehoth]: the family of the Amramites the family of the Yitzharites, the family of the Hebronites,
and the family of the Uzzielites. These they were: the families of the Kehotites.

28 And the number [of all the males] [of age one month] and over numbered [eight thousand] and [six hundred] (8,600).
They were keepers of the charge of the holy things.

29 The families of the sons of Kehoth are to camp [along the flank]—on the side of the *Mishkan*, facing south.

30 The chieftain of the father's house of the family of the Kehothites was Eltzafan son of Uzziel.

31 [Now this was their charge]: the ark and the table, the lampstand [and the two altars],
the implements of holiness that are used [for all these] [and the partition screen], and all [their serving tasks].

32 The chieftain of the leaders of the Levites was Eleazar son of Aaron the priest.
[He is in charge] [of those who keep] the watch of the holy things.

3:33 [And for Merari]: the family of the Machlites and the family of the Mushites. And so these were the families of the Merarites.

34 Their tallies by numbering all males [from age one month] and over—here is their number: six thousand and two hundred (6,200).

35 The chieftain [of the father's house] of the families of the Merari was Tzurriel son of Avichail.

There [on the side] [of the *mishkan*] [they will camp], to the north.

36 The assignment—the appointed tasks—of the sons of Merari: the planks of the Tabernacle, its bars, its pillars, and its bases [and all of its implements], and all its accessories,

37 [as well as the pillars] [of the enclosure] all around, and their bases, their stakes, and their ropes.

38 [And those who camp] facing [the dwelling of the *Mishkan*], eastward, [this being in front of] the Tent of Meeting | toward sunrise: [these shall be Moses] | and Aaron, [as well as his sons]: the keepers of the watch of the sanctuary, as a trust for the children of Israel.

[The stranger who comes close] will be put to death.

39 The full tally of the Levites [that was made] by Moses [and also by Aaron], by the word of YHWH, by their families—every male [of age one month] or over [end aliyah] was two and twenty thousand (22,000).

40 Then said YHWH to Moses, [Make a count] of every [first-born male] of the children of Israel, [of age one month] or over. [You must take up] a census—find the number of their names.

41 [You shall take] the Levites for Me—I am YHWH—in place of all first-born of the children of Israel and also the cattle of the Levites in place [of all first-born] of the cattle of *B'nei Yisrael*.

42 So a count [was made by Moses] [just as it was] commanded by YHWH to him: [all the first-born] of the children of Israel.

43 [And it was], that all the first-born males by the number [of their names], of age one month and over, by their tallies was two and twenty thousand, three and seventy, [plus two hundred] (22,273).

44 Then spoke YHWH to Moses saying,

45 Take [the Levites aside] in place [of all the first-born] of the children of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites, in place of their cattle. Mine shall be the Levites. I am YHWH.

3:46 And for the redemption [of the three] and seventy [plus two hundred] (273)
 [who are in excess] of the Levites, of the first-born of the children of Israel,
 47 [you are to take] [a total of five]—[you must collect] [five shekels] for each head, by the shekel of the sanctuary [you shall take it],
 there being twenty grains (*gerahs*) per shekel.
 48 [You will give] the silver to Aaron and to his sons [as redemption money] [for those in excess] of the Levites.
 49 And thus [took Moses] all the silver of redemption from those who exceeded the ones redeemed by the Levites.
 50 [And from these]—[from the first-born] of the children of Israel, he took the silver
 in the amount five and sixty and [another three hundred] [plus one thousand] (1365) in shekels of the sanctuary.
 51 And then gave Moses [all of the silver] [that was for redemption] to Aaron and to his sons, at the word of YHWH,
 [just as it was] [end aliyah] commanded by YHWH to Moses.

4:1 Then spoke YHWH to Moses and to Aaron as follows.
 2 [You must take up] a head-count of the sons of Kehoth from the midst of the sons of Levi by their families—by the house of their fathers,
 3 from age thirty years and upward, up to age [fifty years], [all who enter] [the work force] to do work in the Tent of Meeting.
 4 [The following] is the work of the sons of Kehoth in the Tent of Meeting. It is holy of holies.
 5 [They will come]—Aaron and his sons—when the camp [prepares to travel], [and they will take down] the curtain from the screen,
 [and cover with it] the Ark of the Testimony.
 6 They will place [over it] a cover made of skin of tanned leather, [and proceed to spread] [a cloth made entirely] of blue-violet over that,
 [and put in place] its poles.
 7 [And then upon] the table [of the bread of the Presence] [they will spread] a cloth of blue-violet, and place [right on top of it]
 the dishes [and the fire pans], [as well as the bowls] and the jars for libation. The bread for daily offering, shall remain upon it.
 8 They will spread [on top of all these] [a fabric] of crimson scarlet; then cover this with a case made of skin of tanned leather,
 [and put in place] its poles.

4:9 [Then they will take] a cloth of blue-violet [and they will cover] the menorah used for lighting, with all [of its lamps], its wick-tongs, and its fire-pans, as well [as all the vessels] for oil that they use with them.

10 [They will put] the menorah [and all of its implements] [in a case] made of skin [of tanned leather], [and set it] on a pole.

11 And then upon [the altar—[the one made of gold]] they will spread a cloth of blue-violet, and [cover it] with a case made of skin [of tanned leather], [and put in place] its poles.

12 [They then shall take] all the implements of service—[those of which] [they attend *with* them] [in the holy shrine]—[and put them] into a cloth of blue-violet, and cover this [with a case] made of skin [of tanned leather], [and set it] on a pole.

13 [They will remove the ashes] from the altar, and spread [upon it] a cloth [of purple wool].

14 They shall place [there upon it] [all of the utensils]—the ones [of which they do] attend [to them]: the fire-pans, the flesh-hooks, the shovels and the basins—all the implements of the altar—and proceed [to cover it] [with a case] made of skin of tanned leather, and put in place its poles.

15 [When they have finished]—Aaron [and Aaron's sons]—covering the holy things and all the furnishings [of the sanctuary] when the camp [prepares to travel], [only after that] may come [the sons of Kehoth] [to carry them], that they do not touch the holy things and die. [These are the things] to be carried by the sons of Kehoth, in the tent of meeting.

16 [Accountable will be] Eleazar, [son [of Aaron the priest]], for the oil for lighting, for the incense spices, for the meal offerings performed daily and the oil for anointing. [He is in charge] [of the whole *mishkan*], [and all that is in it], [its sacred objects] and their utensils.

17 Then spoke YHWH to Moses and to Aaron as follows.

18 “[Do not cut off] the tribe of the families of Kehot from among the Levites.

19 [For this indeed] [you must do] [with the clans of Kehot], [that they may live] and not die, [when they approach] the Holy of Holies: Aaron and his sons must enter and [assign to them]—[each one] [of the men]—to his service [and his carrying-chores].

20 [But they *must* not come in] [where they could observe] [end aliyah] the dismantling of the holy things, [lest they should die].

Len Fellman's English readings with tropes

The purpose of this project is to translate *THE SONG OF THE TORAH* into English.

I work by comparing as many as ten English translations of a *pasuk* and creating a cantillated English sentence that sounds as much as possible like the Hebrew. They follow the Hebrew as closely as possible, word for word and trope by trope. The English language has an amazing flexibility, making it possible to make the English word order match that of the Hebrew quite well, allowing for some “poetic licence”, and some willingness on the part of the listener to be “carried” by the melody more than by the English syntax. The translation needs to sound good when *chanted*, but not necessarily when *spoken or read*.

Unlike most translations, these “transtropilations” are not intended to be a substitute for the Hebrew. On the contrary, they are meant to provide a “window” into the Hebrew text and its musical expression. My ideal listener knows enough Hebrew and has enough interest to follow the Hebrew in a bilingual text while the *leyner* is chanting the English version, to bring the Hebrew text to life, both *verbally* and *musically*. For this purpose I use *exactly* the same tropes in the English as in the Hebrew (almost always on the corresponding English word).

The texts can be used to do **consecutive translation**, i.e. leyning a phrase in Hebrew, followed by the corresponding phrase sung in English. Some of my recordings demonstrate this. I do this frequently when leyning for groups that either know little Hebrew, or that don't have a *chumash* in front of them.

I favor literal translations (e.g. “cut a covenant”) to call attention to Hebrew idioms, and towards simpler (even if less accurate) words (e.g. Ex. 12:7 “beam above the door” rather than “lintel”) to be easier to follow. If my readings provoke a discussion of the Hebrew, I consider that as justification for using less-than-idiomatic English. I try to find just the right balance between “literalness” and “listenable-ness”. A primary goal is throwing light on the Hebrew syntax.

In order to adapt the trope symbols to a left-to-right language like English, I *reversed* the direction of the trope symbols:

mercha tipcha munach tevir mapakh *or* yetiv kadma *or* pashta geresh gershayim telisha katana telisha gedola

(Generally speaking the *conjunctive tropes* such as mercha, munach, mapakh, kadma, and telisha katana “lean toward” the words they “conjoin” to, while the *disjunctive tropes* such as tipcha, geresh, gershayim, and telisha gedola “lean away” from the words that follow, so as to create a sense of separation.)

The trope symbol is normally placed under the accented syllable, unless it is a *pre-positive* accent (telisha gedola, placed *at the beginning* of the word or phrase) or a *post-positive* one (telisha katana or pashta, placed at the *end* of the word or phrase).

The Hebrew text frequently puts a *makkeph* (which is like a hyphen) between words in order to treat them as a single word to be chanted. I use a different system for English: If an entire English phrase is to be chanted to a single trope melody, I place it between grey brackets, as in this phrase from the Book of Lamentations:

[clings to her skirts]

The *leyner* is invited to fit this phrase to the *Eicha* “rivi'i” melody in whatever way seems most natural.

As a variant of the “grey bracket” device, I indicate the following pairs of tropes by “wrapping them around” the phrase which will have the combined melody:

mercha/tipcha	kadma/geresh (<i>or</i> : azla, etc.)	mercha siluk
(Renew our days)	(She weeps bitterly).	(a fire-offering to God)

Again, the *leyner* should decide on the most natural way to fit the phrase to the combined trope melody.

I put words in gray which I consider essential but which don’t strictly match the Hebrew. I also “pad” some phrases with extra words in gray to fill out a musical phrase nicely. Different trope systems vary widely in the length of the musical phrase used, so the words in gray may or not be used depending on the *leyner*’s cantillation system. In particular, the tropes *telisha g’dola* (ר), *legarmeh*, *metigah-zakef*, and *pazer* vary widely in the musical phrases used for chanting. (And please indulge me in my whimsical treatments of *shalsholet*.)

“*Metigah-zakef*” is a special trope combination which can be recognized by a kadma and a zakef katon appearing on the same Hebrew word (again, a *makkeph* makes two words into one). (There are several examples in Genesis 18 & 19, beginning with 18:16). I indicate this by placing the corresponding English phrase in grey brackets:

[Take heed—take care for yourself]

In some trope systems (notably cantor Moshe Haschel in “Navigating the Bible II”) this is given a very distinctive melody—for which purpose extra syllables fill out the musical phrase (as in “take care” in this example). Haschel’s system also chants the trope *munach* as *legarmeh* more often than other systems do.

I don’t write a single word of translation without first hearing the melody of the phrase in my mind, following one of two trope systems: The one by Portnoy and Wolff (*The Art of Cantillation*) or the one by Joshua R. Jacobson (*Chanting the Hebrew Bible*).

I transcribe the name יהוה as YHWH (in small caps). I almost always chant this as *yud-hey-vav-hey*, which I have discovered fits marvelously into several of the trope melodies. But of course the *leyner* can choose to pronounce it as “*God*” or “*Adonai*”.

The English translations I mostly use (besides several scholarly commentaries) are the following:

Aryeh Kaplan, ‘The Living Torah’ (1981) (also my source for proper names & transliterations)
 Richard Elliott Friedman, ‘The Bible With Sources Revealed’ (2003)
 Everett Fox, ‘The Five Books of Moses’ (1997)
 The Stone Edition ‘Tanach’ (1996)
 JPS ‘Hebrew-English Tanach’, (2nd Ed. 2000), *along with* Orlinsky, ‘Notes on the New Translation of the Torah’ (1969)
 Robert Alter, ‘The Five Books of Moses’ (2004)
 Commentaries in the ‘Anchor Bible’ series
 Rotherham, The Emphasized Bible (1902)
 The Jerusalem Bible (1966) (also my source for topic headings)
 The New King James Bible (1982)